



Ronald F. Angelo Jr.  
Acting Commissioner



State of Connecticut  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development

***TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE***  
***March 8, 2011***

*Ronald Angelo, Acting Commissioner*  
*Department of Economic and Community Development*

**HB 6526 AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT AS  
AN ECONOMIC DRIVER**

**HB 6528 AN ACT CONCERNING BONDING FOR BROWNFIELDS**

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The Department of Economic and Community Development offers the following comments regarding **HB 6526 AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER** and **6528 AN ACT CONCERNING BONDING FOR BROWNFIELDS**

Brownfield redevelopment is a critical component in revitalizing Connecticut's economic and community centers and commercial areas. DECD's Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development (OBRD) is the lead state agency in managing financial and technical assistance for this important economic development issue. Since 1993, DECD has invested over \$255 million in brownfield assessments and redevelopments, leveraging \$817 million in other funding. Some notable projects include the Brass Mill Center in Waterbury, the former Bryant Electric site redevelopment in Bridgeport and Goodwin College in East Hartford. Attached please find a summary of the activities of the OBRD.

Governor Malloy has continued this commitment to investing in brownfield revitalization by including \$25 million in each year of the biennium to finance loans for redevelopment of brownfields which will assist in the revitalization of our urban and rural communities around the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's Legislative Program Manager, Joseph Oros at (860) 270-8186 or [Joseph.Oros@ct.gov](mailto:Joseph.Oros@ct.gov).

**Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development (OBRD)**  
**Department of Economic & Community Development**  
**Summary of activities 3/8/11**

DECD's Office of Brownfields Remediation and Development (OBRD) is the lead agency providing technical and financial assistance to investigate and remediate brownfield sites.

**Brownfield activity status** – OBRD's project pipeline tracks project at each stages of the approval process. Activities funded are primarily environmental assessment and remediation. OBRD pipeline includes 40 projects:

Awaiting Contract: 8 projects;  
Awaiting Bond Commission approval: 2 projects;  
Drafting Financial Assistance Proposal stage: 10 projects; and  
Projects under discussion: 20 projects

**Brownfield Municipal Pilot Program** - Grant program for municipalities with projects that have been complicated by brownfields but will on completion make a significant economic impact.

1<sup>st</sup> round (\$2.25M) awards (all project under contract):

Norwalk – South Norwalk Train Station (\$300,000), Shelton – Axton Cross (\$425,000), Stamford – Harbor Point (\$450,000), Waterbury - Cherry Street (\$650,000), Redding – Georgetown (\$425,000)

2<sup>nd</sup> round (\$2.25M) awards (projects at various stages of contract closing):

Hartford - Swift Factory(\$600,000), Waterbury - Waterbury Industrial Commons (\$600,000), Meriden - Factory H (\$300,000), Madison - Griswold Airport (\$200,000), Naugatuck - Train Station (\$50,000), Putnam - Cargill Falls Mill (\$500,000)

State and Federal brownfield programs managed by OBRD

**Federal (EPA funding)**

**EPA Assessment Program** – Grant of services to municipalities and nonprofits for environmental assessment of brownfield sites.

**EPA Revolving Loan Fund - Statewide** – Grants and loans for remediation of brownfield sites located State-wide

**EPA Revolving Loan Fund – Hartford** – Grants and loans for remediation of brownfield site located in Hartford.

State funded

**Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program** - Loans to applicants who seek to develop property for purposes of retaining or expanding jobs or for developing housing to serve the needs of first-time home buyers.

**Urban Sites Remedial Action Program** – Seed capital to facilitate the transfer, reuse and redevelopment of property. Jointly managed by OBRD and DEP for projects in a distressed municipality that are significant to the Connecticut's economy and quality of life.

**Special Contaminated Properties Remediation and Insurance Fund** - Loans to municipalities, developers or owners for assessment and remediation.

Non-financial state assistance

**Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Program** - Liability protection from the responsibility to investigate and remediate off-site contamination.